

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226106

E.O. 11652:XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, SW

SUBJECT: STANSAAB APPLICATION FOR AIRTRAFFIC CONTROL
SYSTEM

REF: STOCKHOLM 3999

1. SWEDISH AMBASSADOR WACHTMEISTER CALLED ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY VEST SEPTEMBER 19 TO PRESENT LETTER FOR
SECRETARY VANCE FROM FOREIGN MINISTER SODER, WHICH
ASKS FOR A SWIFT, AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER TO STANSAAB
REGARDING ITS LONG-PENDING EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION.
THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STANSAAB
CASE TO THE GOS AND THE NEED FOR EARLY RESOLUTION
OF THE MATTER.

2. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT THERE WERE
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SECURITY FACTORS INVOLVED WHICH HAD TO BE ADDRESSED.
SERIOUS DIFFERENCES IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THE SYSTEM
HAD TO BE EXAMINED WITH PROPER ATTENTION TO THE
SECURITY QUESTIONS RAISED. HE INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR
THAT WE HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT MR. WEDELL WILL COME
TO WASHINGTON FOR TECHNICAL TALKS BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 26. HOPEFULLY ALL OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

WOULD BE ANSWERED AT THAT TIME, ALLOWING US TO REACH AN EARLY DECISION ON THE APPLICATION.

3. THE TEXT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER FOLLOWS:

QUOTE DEAR MR. SECREATARY, WHEN I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING YOU IN WASHINGTON ON JUNE 30, WE DISCUSSED, AMONG OTHER ITEMS, THE APPLICATION OF THE SWEDISH COMPANY STANSAAB FOR EXPORT LICENSE FOR CERTAIN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS TO BE USED IN AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM ORDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOVIET UNION. AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, THIS APPLICATION HAS BEEN PROCESSED IN WASHINGTON FOR ALMOST A YEAR AND A HALF.

SOME DAYS BEFORE MY VISITING WASHINGTON, STANSAAB WAS INVITED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO PRESENT A REVISED APPLICATION FOLLOWING CERTAIN GUIDELINES DRAWN UP BY THE COMPETENT US AUTHORITIES. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO US AT THAT TIME THAT A POSITIVE ANSWER TO SUCH A REVISED APPLICATION WOULD IN ALL LIKELIHOOD BE FORTHCOMING WITHIN SHORT... (SK)

DURING MY VISIT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN STANSAAB AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ON THE DETAILS OF SUCH A REVISED APPLICATION. AND DURING OUR TALKS YOU STATED, MR. SECRETARY, THAT THE US AUTHORITIES WOULD MAKE ALL ENDEAVOURS TO MEET THE SWEDISH REQUESTS
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TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE. YOU ALSO STATED THAT STANSAAB WOULD BE OFFERED CONDITIONS AT LEAST EQUAL TO THOSE GIVEN TO SPERRY RAND IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

OVER TWO MONTHS HAVE NOW PASSED WITHOUT ANY DECISION HAVING BEEN TAKEN. THIS DELAY WHICH, REPORTEDLY, IS DUE TO THE AVAILABILITY OF NEW INTELLIGENCE IS A CAUSE FOR GRAVE CONCERN TO THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT

THE MATTER HAS NOW REACHED A STAGE WHERE EVERY WEEK'S DELAY INCREASES THE RISK OF STANSAAB INCURRING SERIOUS ECONOMIC DAMAGE. THIS DELAY HAS ALSO AN IMPORTANT BARRING ON OUR TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION AND OUR GENERAL CREDIBILITY AS A TRADING PARTNER.

ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT I URGENTLY APPEAL TO YOU, MR. SECRETARY, TO INTERVENE IN THIS MATTER AND ASSIST IN ACHIEVING A SWIFT AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER TO STANSAAB'S REVISED APPLICATION.

KARIN SODER. UNQUOTE. VANCE

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